

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 MCT-01 HA-05 AID-05
CCO-00 FBOE-00 OC-06 OPR-02 USSS-00 CA-01 A-01
SCS-06 OMB-01 SY-05 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00
INRE-00 /081 W

-----125033 011906Z /64

O P 011820Z MARY 78
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7712
SECDEF IMMEDIATE
DIRNSA FT MEADE MD IMMEDIATE
CINCPAC IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 3422

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

ISLAMABAD, NEW DELHI AND TEHRAN: ALSO FOR USDAOs

SITREP 22

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ASEC, PINS, AF
SUBJECT: MILITARY CONFLICT IN KABUL

1. AT CA. 1900 HOURS, DARKNESS FELL OVER COMMUNIST KABUL'S FIRST MAY DAY HOLIDAY. THERE HAD BEEN NO SPEECHES, PARADES, NOR PROPAGANDA POSTERS. A FEW TANKS, SUCH AS THE ONE PARKED IN THE DIRVEWAY OF THE EXECUTED FORMER PRESIDENT, MOHAMMAD DAOUD, SPORTED SMALL RED FLAGS AND WREATHS OF FLOWERS. THE MAIN ATTRACTION WAS THE HEAVILY DAMAGED "ARG" PALACE COMPOUND AND DAOUD'S HOUSE. THOUSAND OF AFGHANS FILED PAST, GAZING
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IN SILENCE AT THE POCKMARKED EVIDENCE OF THE VIOLENT END OF MOHAMMADZAI RULE.

2. INDIA HAS NOW JOINED THE USSR AND BULGARIA IN RECOGNIZING THE NEW GOVERNMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN (DRA). AS OF 2200 HOURS, RADIO AFGHANISTAN STILL HAD NOT MENTIONED

ANY RECOGNITION BY CUBA.

3. U.S. MISSION PERSONNEL PERFORMED ROAD PROBES ON APRIL 29 AND 30 NORTHWARD TO MAZAR-I-SHARIF, SOUTHWARD TO KANDAHAR AND LASTLAR GAH, AND EASTWARD TO JALALABAD AND TORKHAM.

ALL ROUTES WERE OPEN AND THE NEW REGIME SEEMED FIRMLY IN POWER THROUGHOUT THE AREAS VISITED BY THE U.S. TEAMS.

4. WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT ARIANA AFGHAN AIRLINES AND INDIAN AIRLINES OPERATIONS WILL RECOMMENCE ON THE MORNING OF MAY 2 AT KABUL AIRPORT. THE EMBASSY IS ENDEAVORING TO ARRANGE A SHARE OF AVAILABLE SEATS FOR AMERICAN CITIZENS. AN AMERICAN OFFICER VISITED THE AIRPORT ON MAY 1 AND SAW NO DAMAGE ON THE ARIANA 720 OR THE USDAO AIRCRAFT PARKED THERE.

5. "BLOCK CAPTAINS" HAVE BEEN OBSERVED THROUGHOUT KABUL, CALLING AT HOMES IN THEIR RESPECTIVE DISTRICTS. THE BLOCK CAPTAINS ARE APPARENTLY OF UNIVERSITY AGE, AND ARE NEATLY DRESSED IN WESTERN CLOTHING. THEY ARE RECORDING INFORMATION ABOUT THE OCCUPANTS OF EACH HOUSE (E.G., NAMES, NATIONALITIES, AND OCCUPATIONS).

6. WE HAVE RECEIVED CONFIRMATION FROM THE DAUGHTER OF NUR AHMED ETEMADI, AFGHAN AMBASSADOR TO PAKISTAN UNDER DAOUD (AND A FORMER PRIME MINISTER DURING THE EARLIER ROYAL REGIME), THAT HER FATHER IS BEING HELD PRISONER AT KABUL. THE BROTHER CONFIDENTIAL

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OF MAJOR GENERAL MOTAMMAD YAHYA NAWROZ, FORMER CHIEF OF OPERATIONS FOR THE MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE, HAS CONFIRMED THAT THE LATTER IS BEING HELD BY THE AUTHORITIES.

7. CORRECTION FOR THE RECORD: THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR HAS TOLD US THAT, CONTRARY TO EARLIER REPORTS, NO MEMBERS OF THE DAOUD FAMILY SOUGHT REFUGE IN THE FRENCH EMBASSY COMPOUND.

8. CORRECT FOR THE RECORD: THE INDIAN AND YUGOSLAV AMBASSADORS HERE INFORMED US THAT, CONTRARY TO EARLIER REPORTS, NEITHER OF THEM WERE CALLED IN FOR A MEETING WITH THE NEW REGIME ON APRIL 28.

9. AS OF 2200 HOURS ON MAY 1, EVERYTHING IS QUIET IN KABUL AND NO AMERICAN INJURIES HAVE BEEN REPORTED. THIS WILL BE OUR LAST SITREP FOR TONIGHT UNLESS IMPORTANT EVENTS OCCUR BEFORE THE OPENING OF BUSINESS ON MAY 2.
ELIOT

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NNN

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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